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# The Bloody Papist:

Or, a True

# RELATION MURDER

Of the Horrid and Barbarous

Committed by one Ro. Sherburn of Kyme in Lincolnshire, (a Notorious P A P I S T,) upon his Wife, whom in an Inhumane Manner he Murder'd in her Bed, for which he is now a Prisoner in Lincoln-Goal.

**A**mongst all the grievous and Raigning Sins too frequently Committed amongst us, That of *Murther*, as it is one of the deepest dye, and most unnatural, so it deserves the strictest Disquisition; and not only Cries loud to Heaven for Vengeance, but also to Gods Vicegerents on Earth, for exact and speedy Justice to be inflicted on those that are Guilty of it. To kill any Unlawfully, is no less than an Assault upon God in Effigie, a Defacing of the Divine Image: but when such a Barbarous Crime shall be aggravated with Design and Premeditation, and such a Circumstance as this, that 'tis Acted against so near a Relation as is the same *Flesh*, and whom, both the Laws of God and man, the Dictates of Reason, and a mans own Solemn Vows, had in a special manner oblig'd him to Defend, Love, and Cherish, it swells beyond all Proportion of Ordinary Impiety, and grows monstrously Detestable.

This Ro. Sherburn liv'd at a Village call'd Kyme in Lincolnshire; his Trade or Occupation, a Farmer or Dealer in Cattel; and by Profession of Religion, a Papist; whether he were bred up so from his Infancy, or since Revolted and Apostatiz'd thereunto, we have not been able to Learn; 'Tis certain that for diverse years past he has own'd himself of that Perswasion, and very Zealous and Obstinate therein; and as to his Life and Conversation, it was fuitable enough to the Principles of their Mock-Religion; It being nothing strange that those whom God hath so far forsaken as to give them up to believe a Lie (for Popery in the whole Body of it is no other) should likewise be left without Natural Affections, and abandon themselves to Work all kind of Wickedness with Greediness.

He had long been married (by Report in the Country near 20 years,) to an honest Loving and Industrious Woman, and to the outward view of the World they seem'd to live very agreeably together

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gether, till the Powerful Temptations of Satan ( or his Instru-  
ments) prompted him to this cruel and Savage Act; which accord-  
ing to the Account of the Neighbour-hood, was thus :

That one night at the end of *December* last, she being innocently  
sleeping in her Bed, he most inhumanely Assaulted her, without  
any previous Provocation that we can hear of, on her part, and  
in a Barbarous manner *Throttled* or Suffocated her, and by Tram-  
pling upon her, and many furious *Blows* on her Stomach & Bowels,  
beat the Breath out of her Body and killed her, and so left her  
dead, and betook himself to another Bed.

Where though his Conscience loaded with so much Guilt could  
not sure suffer him to sleep, yet there he continued the greatest  
part of the next Forenoon, when some Neighbours wondering  
that they did not see the doors open'd, nor him abroad about his  
Business as he was wont to be ; after several times knocking and  
calling, but no Answer, fearing some Misfortune had happen'd  
to them, broke open the Doors, and (to their Amazement) found  
her thus Murder'd in her Bed, and he Lying upon another.

And receiving no Satisfaction from him to their Inquiries, but  
rather just reason to suspect him to be the *Assassinate*, they carry-  
ed him before a Magistrate, where having little to say for him-  
self, but some Trifling Evasions; after due Examination, he  
having (in Effect) *Confest* that he kill'd her, was on New-years  
day last committed to *Lincoln Goal*, where he now remains, ex-  
pecting his deserved *Doom* at this next approaching *Assizes*.

What Inducements the Devil made use of to tempt him to this  
horrid Villany is not yet certainly known ; Whether any Dis-  
satisfaction he might perceive in her as to *Religion*, or any Inclina-  
tion to leave their *Superstitions* and Embrace the *Protestant Faith*,  
(as some Report) or whether it were only some private Grudge,  
or desire to be rid of her (as others conceive) or whether it were  
upon some falling out between them, (as some relate) about 10 *l.*  
or some other sum of Money, which she had laid up and would  
not produce for him to dispose of, I say which of all these things,  
or what else, it was, that egg'd him on to commit this sad Fact,  
is left to the proofs that shall appear at the Trial.

In the mean time it is given out by the *Papists* that he was *Distracted* when  
he did it, and to add to the Probability, they alleadge that he was Dis-  
temper'd in mind in his Youth about 20 years ago, and that having lately a fit  
of Sicknes, they believe his Phrensy might again revert and seize him; and  
though he now seem'd recovered of this late Sicknes, and to be very well  
again, and went about his Business; yet they affirm he was still Melancho-  
ly and in one of those Frantick Fitts, not knowing what he did, Commit-  
ted this Lamentable Mischiefe.

But how far they will be able to make these things appear, or whether  
they are only related in favour of him, and for the Credit of their Religi-  
on, I shall not undertake to determine.